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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Joseph A. FERNANDO et al.      Docket No.: UNF-9058 A  
Serial No: 09/560,469      Examiner: Marian C. Knode  
Filed: April 28, 2000      Group Art Unit: 1764  
Title: SUPPORT ELEMENT FOR FRAGILE STRUCTURES SUCH AS CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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11-1-02  
(date)

**TRANSMITTAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BEFORE A FIRST OFFICE ACTION ON THE MERITS  
(37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3))**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 encouraging the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants submit this paper in compliance with their duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Applicants wish to introduce art having some relevance to the present application, which has been listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08A. This form includes one (1) foreign patent document. No representation is made that a specific search has been made by Applicants, that the information is material to the claimed subject matter, or that the information represents the only or the best information.

Applicants do not admit that any of the information they have provided is necessarily prior to their invention, but rather it is information of which they are aware and believe should be provided to the Office in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure. Any question that may arise regarding the priority of a specific document shall be resolved during prosecution.

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The information provided herewith is in the English language. The referenced art is being cited for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with the opportunity to make an evaluation and to arrive at an independent assessment of materiality of each document, if any, to the examination of this application. The Examiner is requested to disregard any markings on the copy of the cited document. Markings on the reference should not be regarded as necessarily pointing out the portions of the subject document regarded by the Applicants as relevant to the subject application. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited be made of record in the subject case.

The cited reference, Canadian Patent No. 1,037,973, was identified in an "observation" to a published, counterpart foreign patent application in Japan. Canadian Patent No. 1,037,973 corresponds to Great Britain Patent No. 1,481,133, which was previously cited to the USPTO by Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 28, 2000. Applicants have only had knowledge of Canadian Patent No. 1,037,973 since October 24, 2002.

#### **IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before a first office action on the merits of the application. No fee is due with the filing of this paper. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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